

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

12/16/2010

City of Reading, Community Development Department
City Hall Office 3-06
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These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Reading, Community Development Department.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about *January 16th, 2011* the City of Reading, Community Development Department will authorize Our City Reading, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – PA Region III for the release of Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grant funds under Section 108(q) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as the Arts District Development for the purpose of expanding the existing cultural center that has been established in downtown Reading by way of acquiring and renovating certain buildings for residential uses, implementing minor infrastructure improvements, and conducting environmental cleanup activities. The \$4,185,000 re-development project comprises a six-block area bounded on the north by Walnut Street, on the west by Front Street, on the south by Washington Street, and on the east by North 4th Street.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Reading, Community Development Department has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of Reading, Community Development Department, located in City Hall Office 3-06 at 815 Washington Street in downtown Reading, and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:00A.M to 4:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Reading, Community Development Department. All comments received by January 31st will be considered by the Community Development Department prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Reading, Community Development Department certifies to HUD that Mr. Thomas McMahon in his capacity as Mayor of the City Reading consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Our City Reading to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Reading, Community Development Department; (b) the City of Reading, Community Development Department has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD – PA Region III at The Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, 11th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Thomas McMahon, Mayor, City of Reading

Note: The fifteen or eighteen-day public comment periods are the minimum time periods required by regulation prior to submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Certification (form HUD-7015.15) to HUD/State. The Responsible Entity may choose to allow a longer comment period. 24 CFR Part 58 requires, at Section 58.46, "Time delays for exceptional circumstances," a 30-day comment period for controversial or unique projects or those similar to projects normally requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The fifteen-day objection period is a statutory requirement. The objection period follows the submission date specified in the Notice or the actual date of receipt by HUD/State, whichever is later.

Following completion of the comment period recipients may FAX the form HUD-7015.15 to HUD/State together with a copy of the public notice and a cover letter stating whether comments were received and, if so, how the recipient responded to the comment. The Request for Release of Funds and Certification should not be submitted before the recipient has responded. If the request is sent by FAX, the original signed form should be mailed to HUD/State. The date of receipt by FAX will be counted as the submission date. However, HUD will not issue the 7015.16 "Authority to Use Grant Funds" until after the original signed form is received.